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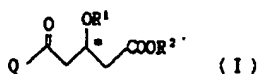
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(54) **OPTICALLY ACTIVE INTERMEDIATE AND PRODUCTION THEREOF.**

(57) A process for synthesizing an optically active starting material, represented by general formula (I), for various medicines with a high optical purity in a good yield, wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents hydrogen or hydroxyl-protecting group; \* represents an asymmetric carbon atom; R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen or optionally substituted lower alkyl; and Q represents -C=P(Ph)<sub>3</sub>, -CH<sub>2</sub>P(O)(OMe)<sub>2</sub> or -CN<sub>2</sub>S(O)Me. More particularly, an intermediate for the synthesis of an optically active compound useful for inhibiting the activity of HMG-CoA reductase to thereby inhibit the biosynthesis of cholesterol; and a process for producing the intermediate.



EP 0 554 455 A1



## FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides optically active compounds useful as starting materials for various medicaments and a method for production thereof. For example, in a large scale production of optically active HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors in a high yield, optically active carboxylic esters provided by the present invention are very important.

## BACKGROUND ART

It is generally known that the above-mentioned type of optically active compounds are obtainable through optical resolution of racemate or an asymmetric synthetic route. Conventional routes require, however, some special reagents or enzymes, or sometimes cumbersome steps. Furthermore, only a few methods for optical resolution of this type of compounds can give high optical purity enough for practical use.

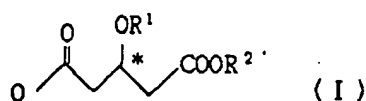
Therefore, obtaining compounds of high optical purity is extremely important for synthesizing various compounds e.g., medicaments.

## DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a simple asymmetric synthetic route for compounds of high optical purity on a large scale which utilizes a stereoselective reaction employing inexpensive reagents.

Under the circumstances described above, after a great many research efforts, the present inventors have found a method for production of optically active compounds useful as intermediates.

Namely, the present invention provides a method for production of compounds of high optical purity which are represented by Formula I:



(wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is hydrogen or a hydroxy protecting group;

R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or optionally substituted lower alkyl;

Q is -CH=P(R<sup>3</sup>)<sub>3</sub> or -CHX<sup>\*</sup>X

wherein

R<sup>3</sup> is optionally substituted lower alkyl or optionally substituted aryl;

X is -P(O)R<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup> or -S(O)R<sup>4</sup>

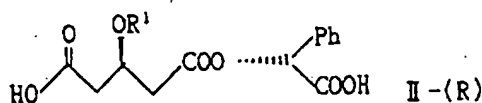
wherein

R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup>, each is hydrogen, optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted lower alkoxy, optionally substituted aryl, or halogen;

X<sup>\*</sup> is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

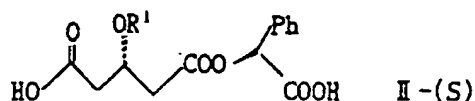
\* is an asymmetric carbon).

Namely, the present method for production comprises converting a compound (II-(R)) or (II-(S)):



(wherein R<sup>1</sup> is the same as defined above), or



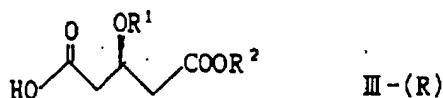


(wherein R<sup>1</sup> is the same as defined above),

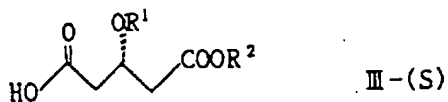
to a target compound of optically active carboxylate (I) by the following method (a) or (b).

Method (a)

(1) The compound (II-(R)) or (II-(S)) is subjected to a transesterification, namely, the compound is reacted with an optionally substituted alcohol such as methanol, ethanol, or the like, in the presence of a base catalyst such as sodium alkoxide, pyridine, or aluminum alkoxide, to give a compound (III-(R)) or (III-(S)):



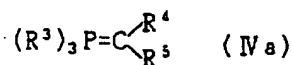
(wherein R<sup>1</sup> is the same as defined above and R<sup>2</sup> is optionally substituted lower alkyl), or



(wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> each is the same as defined above).

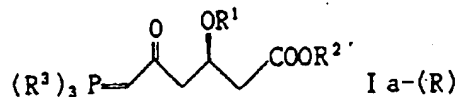
(2) Next, the free carboxylic acid is converted to acyl halide by a treatment with a halogenating agent (for example, phosphorus halide such as phosphorus trihalide, phosphorus pentahalide and the like, or thionyl halide), preferably in the presence of a basic material (e.g. an organic base such as pyridine), or converted to a mixed anhydride by treatment with haloformate (e.g. methyl chloroformate, ethyl chloroformate, iso-butyl chloroformate and the like) in the presence of a basic material (e.g. triethylamine and the like).

(3) Next, subjecting resultant to a reaction with phosphorus ylide:



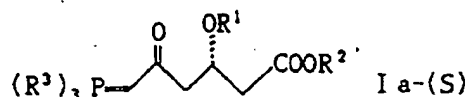
(wherein R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, and R<sup>5</sup> are respectively the same as defined above) and

if necessary, followed by a hydrolysis reaction, to give the target compound (Ia-(R)) or (Ia-(S)):



(wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, and R<sup>3</sup> are respectively the same as defined above), or

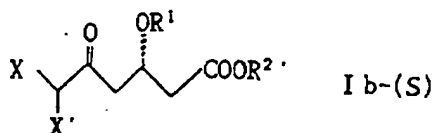




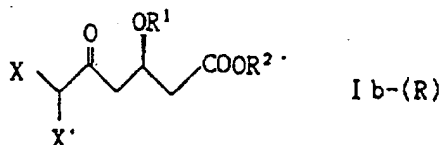
(wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , and  $R^3$  are respectively the same as defined above).

#### Method (b)

The compound (II-(R)) or (II-(S)) is reacted with  $CH_2X'X$  (IVb):  
(wherein X and X' are respectively the same as defined above)  
in the presence of a base in an organic solvent, and  
further, if necessary, followed by esterification, to give respectively the target compound (Ib-(S)) or (Ib-(R)):



(wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , X, and X' each is the same as defined above), or

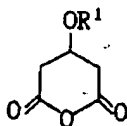


(wherein  $R^1$ ,  $R^2$ , X, and X' are respectively the same as defined above).

Namely, in method (a), the compound (Ia-(R)) is produced from (3R, 2'R) glutarate (II-(R)), and the compound (Ia-(S)) is produced from (3S, 2'S) glutarate (II-(S)). On the other hand, in the method (b), the compound (Ib-(S)) is produced from (II-(R)), and (Ib-(R)) is produced from (II-(S)).

Although both (R) and (S) forms of the compound (I) obtained in the above methods are useful, the (R) form is preferable as an intermediate of a HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor. Accordingly, the compound (Ia-(R)) produced from (3R, 2'R) glutarate (II-(R)) in the method (a), and the compound (Ib-(R)) produced from (3S, 2'S) glutarate (II-(S)) in the method (b) are used as more useful intermediates.

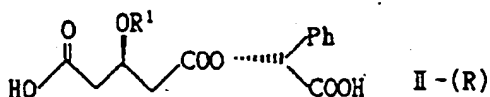
Furthermore, the compound (II) used as a starting material in the present invention is synthesized according to a method disclosed in the specification of Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2-250852. Namely, an acid anhydride of the Formula:



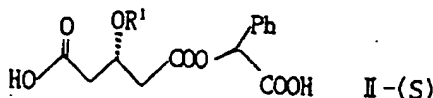
(wherein  $R^1$  is the same as defined above)

is reacted with (R)- or (S)- arylacetic acid derivatives in the presence of an alkyllithium reagent such as  $n\text{-BuLi}$  or the like, or a base such as sodium metal and the like, in an inert organic solvent (e.g. hexane, acetone, methylene chloride, benzene, toluene, dimethylformamide, or acetonitrile), to give (3R, 2'R) glutarate represented by Formula (II-(R)):





(wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is the same as defined above)  
 or to give (3S, 2'S) glutarate represented by Formula (II-(S)):



(wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is the same as defined above).

In the present specification, the hydroxy protecting group means ether-forming protecting group such as methyl, tert-butyl, allyl, benzyl, tetrahydropyranyl, tert-butyldimethylsilyl, tert-butyldiphenylsilyl, and the like; ester-forming protecting group such as acetyl, benzoyl and the like; or sulfonate-forming protecting group such as methylsulfonyl, p-toluensulfonyl, phenylsulfonyl and the like, etc. Preferred in the invention is an ether-forming protecting group, especially tert-butyldimethylsilyl.

As used herein, the "optionally substituted lower alkyl" generally means straight or branched  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_6$  alkyl such as methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, isopentyl, neopentyl, tert-pentyl, 2-methylbutyl, n-hexyl, and isohexyl, or the like, all of which can be substituted by halogen, amino, and the like.

As used herein, the "optionally substituted lower alkoxy" means straight or branched  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_6$  alkyloxy, wherein the alkyl includes all the examples of the lower alkyl defined above.

As used herein, the "optionally substituted aryl" generally means  $\text{C}_6$ - $\text{C}_{12}$  aromatic group such as phenyl, tolyl, xylyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, and the like, and the aryl may be substituted with the above defined alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, or amino and the like. As used herein, halogen means fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine.

#### THE BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

The present invention is here after described in more detail by the following Examples, which are not intended to limit the scope of the present invention.

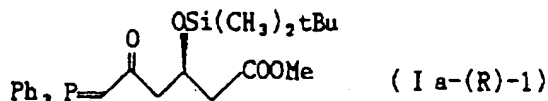
Each abbreviation in the Examples is defined as follows:

Me: methyl, Et: ethyl, Pr: propyl, Bu: butyl, Ph: phenyl.



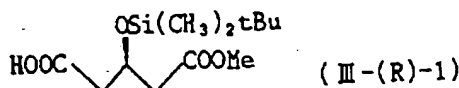
## EXAMPLE

## Example 1

5 Methyl (3R) 3-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-5-oxo-6-triphenylphosphoranylidene hexanoate (Ia-(R)-1)

(Step 1)

15

Synthesis of the compound (III-(R)-1)

A solution of (3R) 3-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)glutaric acid 1-[(R)-(-)-mandelate)]\* (65 g, 164 mmol) in  
 25 minimum volume, i.e., 60 ml of methanol is added dropwise to 28% sodium methoxide solution in methanol  
 (310 ml, 1.6 mol) under nitrogen atmosphere at 0 °C over a period of 45 minutes, during which the internal  
 temperature is kept equal or below 7 °C. The reaction mixture is stirred at 0 °C for 30 minutes and then  
 poured with stirring into a mixture of concentrated HCl (150 ml), water (300 ml), and methylene chloride  
 (500 ml) under ice-cooling. The organic layer is separated and the aqueous layer is extracted with 200 ml of  
 30 methylene chloride. Each organic layer is washed with diluted HCl and saturated brine successively, and  
 then combined, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate and evaporated to give a half ester (III-(R)-1)  
 (45.07 g, 163 mmol) in a 99% yield.

<sup>1</sup>HNMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 0.08 (s, 3H); 0.09 (s, 3H); 0.86 (s, 9H); 2.52 - 2.73 (m, 4H); 3.08 (s, 3H); 4.55 (quintet, 1H,  
 J = 6 Hz)

35 IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>): 2880, 1734, 1712, 1438, 1305, 1096, 836 cm<sup>-1</sup>

[α]<sub>D</sub><sup>20</sup> = -5.0 ± 0.4 ° (C = 1.04, 23.5 °C, CHCl<sub>3</sub>)

Rf 0.32 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH = 9/1)

(Step 2)

40

To a solution of the resulting compound (III-(R)-1) (553 mg, 2 mmol) in 10 ml of an ether are added  
 dropwise triethylamine (0.362 ml, 2.6 mmol) and then ethyl chlorocarbonate (0.230 ml, 2.4 mmol) at -78 °C  
 under nitrogen atmosphere. The reaction mixture is stirred for an additional 1 hour, washed with water and  
 aqueous sodium carbonate, and dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate. From the resulting solution, the  
 45 isopropyl ether is evaporated under vacuum to give 1,5-ethoxycarbonyl methyl-3-tert-butyl-dimethylsilylox-  
 ypentanedioate.

<sup>1</sup>HNMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 0.08 (3H, s); 0.09 (3H, s); 0.85 (9H, s); 1.3 - 1.4 (3H, t, J = 7.3 Hz); 2.5 - 2.6 (2H, d, J = 6.3  
 Hz); 2.6 - 2.8 (2H, m); 3.69 (3H, s); 4.26 - 4.38 (2H, q, J = 7.3 Hz); 4.5 - 4.62 (1H, m)

Next, 60% sodium hydride and 1.29 g (3.6 mmol) of methyltriphenylphosphonium bromide are added to  
 50 20 ml of DMSO under nitrogen atmosphere, and stirred at 50 °C for 3 hours. To a solution of 1,5-  
 ethoxycarbonyl methyl-3-tert-butyldimethylsilyloxypentanedioate in 10 ml of THF is added dropwise a  
 solution of the methylene triphenylphosphorane obtained above in DMSO at -10 °C. The reaction mixture is  
 stirred for 1 hour and poured into water, and extracted with isopropyl ether. The extracted solution is dried  
 over anhydrous sodium sulfate, concentrated; and then subjected to silica gel column chromatography  
 55 (ethyl acetate) to give 740 mg of a target compound (Ia-(R)-1) in a 69% yield, which can be recrystallized

\*: This compound can be synthesized according to a method described in Japanese Laid-Open Patent  
 Publication No. 2-250852, page 10.



from ether-hexane.

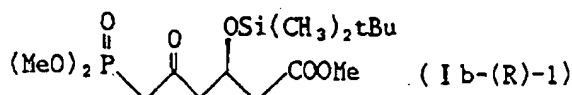
<sup>1</sup>HNMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>) δ: 0.04 (s, 3H); 0.06 (s, 3H); 0.83 (s, 9H); 2.4 - 2.9 (m, 4H); 3.64 (s, 3H); 3.74 (d, 1H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 26 Hz); 4.5 - 4.7 (m, 1H); 7.4 - 7.8 (m, 15H) IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>): 2880, 1730, 1528, 1437, 1250, 1106, 835 cm<sup>-1</sup>

6 [α]<sub>D</sub> = -6.2° (C = 1.27, 22.0°C, CHCl<sub>3</sub>), mp.: 77.5 - 78.5°C R<sub>f</sub> = 0.48 (CHCl<sub>3</sub>/MeOH = 9/1)

Analysis (%) for C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>39</sub> O <sub>4</sub> PSi			
Calcd.:	C, 69.63;	H, 7.35;	P, 5.79
Found:	C, 69.35;	H, 7.35;	P, 6.09

#### Example 2(a)

15 Methyl (3R) 3-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-6-dimethoxyphosphinyl-5-oxohexanoate (Ib-(R)-1)



25 (1) To a solution of 2.44 ml (22.5 mmol) of dimethyl methylphosphonate in 30 ml of THF is added dropwise a solution of 14.1 ml of 1.6 M n-butyllithium (22.5 mmol) in hexane at -78°C under nitrogen atmosphere over 5 minutes. The reaction mixture is stirred at -78°C for 30 minutes to give a white precipitate. To the resulting suspension is added dropwise a solution of 1.983 g (5 mmol) of (3S) 3-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-glutaric acid 1-[(S)-(+)-mandelate]<sup>2</sup> in 10 ml of THF over 5 minutes. The resulting slurry is stirred at -78°C for 3 hours to give a homogeneous solution, which is extracted with an ice-cooled mixture of methylene chloride and 2N HCl. The methylene chloride layer is washed with water twice, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and condensing the solution to give crude carboxylic acid of ketophosphonate.

30 (2) Next, to a solution of the obtained extracted residue in 100 ml of ether is added dropwise an ether solution of diazomethane bit by bit under ice-cooling, until the evolution of nitrogen gas stops and the yellow color of the excess diazomethane persists. The solution is condensed and the oily residue is subjected to silica gel column chromatography (ethyl acetate) for purification, to give 831 mg of the target compound (Ib-(R)-1) with 43% yield.

R<sub>f</sub> = 0.50 (ethyl acetate)

40 <sup>1</sup>HNMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>, 200 MHz) δ: 0.06 (s, 3H); 0.07 (s, 3H); 0.84 (s, 9H); 2.4 - 2.6 (m, 2H); 2.88 (d, 2H, J = 6.2 Hz); 3.11 (d, 2H, <sup>2</sup>J<sub>PH</sub> = 22.6 Hz); 3.67 (s, 3H); 3.76 (s, 3H); 3.82 (s, 3H); 4.47 (quintet, 1H, J = 6.0 Hz) IR (CHCl<sub>3</sub>): 2950, 2850, 1729, 1256, 1036, 836 cm<sup>-1</sup>

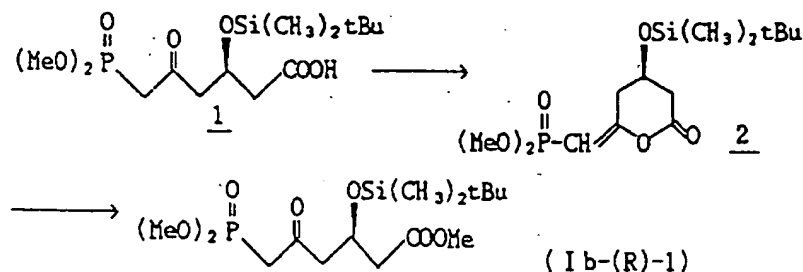
Analysis (%) for C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>31</sub> O <sub>5</sub> PSi			
Calcd.:	C, 47.11;	H, 8.17;	P, 8.10
Found:	C, 47.05;	H, 7.88;	P, 7.86

50  
55  
<sup>2</sup>: This compound is synthesized from (s)-(+)-benzyl mandelate by the same method as that for (3R) 3-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-glutaric acid 1-[(R)-(-)-mandelate].



## Example 2(b)

Alternative synthetic method of methyl (3R) 3-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-6-dimethoxyphosphinyl-5-oxohexanoate (Ib-(R)-1)



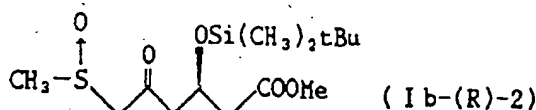
(1) To a solution of 841 mg (2.28 mM) of the compound 1 in 8.5 ml of methylene chloride is added 0.792 ml (5.7 mM) of triethylamine, and cooled to  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  and 0.212 ml (2.74 mM) of methanesulfonyl chloride is added thereto. The reaction mixture is gradually warmed up to room temperature and stirred for 30 minutes. The reaction mixture is poured into diluted HCl and extracted with methylene chloride. The extract is washed with aqueous sodium bicarbonate and dried over an anhydrous magnesium sulfate. The extract is concentrated to give 659 mg of the crude compound 2 (Z:E = 1:3).

$^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 0.09 (s, 6H); 0.87 (s, 9H); 2.50 - 2.90 (m, 4H); 3.81 (d, 3H,  $J = 11.2$  Hz); 3.76 (d, 3H,  $J = 11.2$  Hz); 4.20 - 4.40 (m, 1H); 4.80 - 5.00 (m, 1H)

(2) To a solution of 659 mg of the compound 2 in 7 ml of methanol is added 0.18 ml of 1N sodium methoxide in methanol at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , stirred at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  for 20 minutes, poured into diluted HCl and extracted with methylene chloride. The extract is washed with aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, concentrated, and subjected to column chromatography of silica gel, to give 481 mg of the compound (Ib-(R)-1) with a 67% yield.

## Example 3(a)

Methyl (3R) 3-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-6-methylsulfinyl-5-oxohexanoate (Ib-(R)-2)



To a mixture of 270 ml of THF and 25.6 ml (0.36 mol) of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) is added a solution of 1.6 M of  $n\text{-BuLi}$  in  $n\text{-hexane}$  (168 ml) at  $-30^\circ\text{C}$ , stirred for 20 minutes, then a solution of 23.79 g (60 mmol) of (3S) 3-[(tert-butyldimethylsilyl)oxy]-glutaric acid 1-[(S)-(+)-mandelate] in 120 ml of THF is added dropwise at  $-70^\circ\text{C}$  thereto. The reaction temperature is gradually raised up to  $-15^\circ\text{C}$ , at which temperature it is stirred for 30 minutes, then poured into diluted HCl and extracted with methylene chloride. The organic layer is washed with diluted HCl and brine successively and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, to give solution of crude carboxylic acid.

Rf = 0.8 (chloroform/methanol = 3/1)

The solution of the obtained crude carboxylic acid is treated with diazomethane in ethyl ether added dropwise at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  until the yellow color of diazomethane persists. The obtained solution of methyl ester is concentrated and then subjected to silica gel column chromatography (acetone/ethyl acetate = 1/1) for purification, to give 14.43 g of the compound (Ib-(R)-2) in a 71% yield.

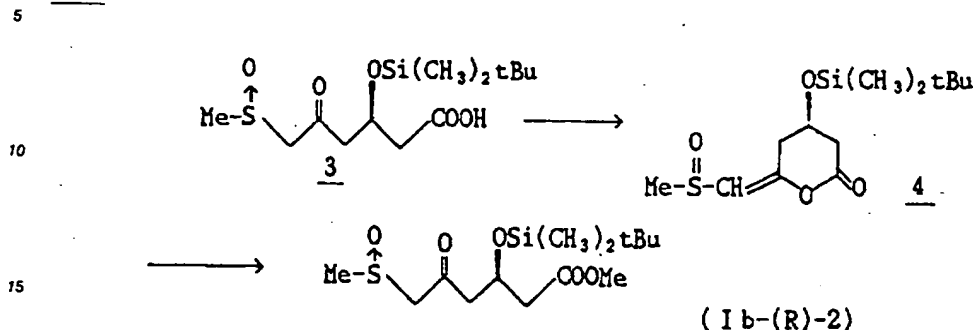
Rf = 0.3 (ethyl acetate)

$^1\text{H NMR}$  ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 0.07 (3H, s); 0.09 (3H, s); 0.85 (9H, s); 2.5 - 2.6 (2H, m); 2.7 (3H, m); 2.8 - 3.0 (2H, m); 3.68 (3H, s); 3.7 - 3.9 (2H, m); 4.5 - 4.7 (1H, m)



## Example 3(b)

Alternative synthetic method of methyl (3R) 3-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-6-methylsulfinyl-5-oxohexanoate (Ib-(R)-2)



20 (1) To a solution of 348 mg (1.08 mM) of the compound 3 in 5 ml of methylene chloride are added 0.41 ml (2.7 eq) of triethylamine and 0.11 ml (1.3 eq) of methanesulfonyl chloride at  $-78^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The mixture is stirred at room temperature for 2 hours and poured into diluted HCl, then extracted with methylene chloride to give 364 mg of the compound 4, which is found to be a mixture of four isomers by NMR analysis.

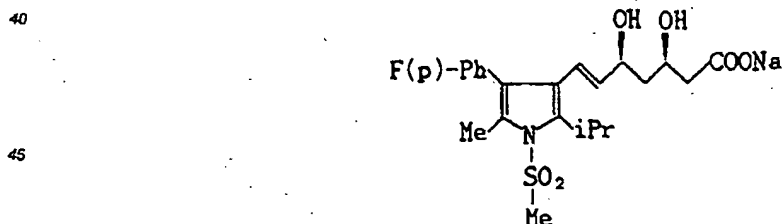
25  $^1\text{H}$ NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ ): 0.09 (s, 6H); 0.86, 0.88 (2singlet, 9H); 2.68, 2.80 (2singlet, 3H); 2.60 - 2.90 (m, 4H); 4.2 - 4.4 (m, 1H); 5.54 - 5.59 (m, 1H)

(2) To a solution of 323 mg of the thus obtained compound 4 in 4 ml of methanol is added a methanol solution of 0.2 eq of sodium methoxide at  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ , stirred for 20 minutes, poured into diluted HCl, then extracted with methylene chloride, dried, concentrated and subjected to column chromatography of silica gel for purification, to give 366 mg of the target compound (Ib-(R)-2) in a 82% yield.

30 The compounds obtained by the present inventions method are utilized for side chains of various HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors. One example thereof is shown below.

## Reference Example

35 Synthesis of Sodium (+) 7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-isopropyl-5-methyl-(1-methylsulfonyl)pyrrol-3-yl]-(3R,5S)-dihydroxy-(E)-6-heptenate



50 To a solution of 80 mg (0.15 mmol) of the compound (Ia-(R)-1) in 0.2 ml of acetonitrile, which is obtained in Example 1, is added 73 mg (0.225 mmol) of 4-(4-fluorophenyl)-3-formyl-2-isopropyl-5-methyl-1-methylsulfonylpyrrol under a nitrogen atmosphere at room temperature, and the mixture is refluxed for 11 hours and then removing the solvent to give methyl 7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-isopropyl-5-methyl-1-methylsulfonylpyrrol-3-yl]-3-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy-5-oxo-6-heptenate (Rf = 0.45, ethyl acetate/toluene = 1/6). To the obtained compound is added 1.5 ml of a solution of hydrogen fluoride in acetonitrile (i.e., 48% hydrogen fluoride solution diluted with acetonitrile to 20 times the original volume) at room temperature, then stirred for 1.5 hours, poured into an ice-cooled aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate, and extracted twice with ethyl acetate. The organic layer is washed with brine, dried over

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anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and concentrated. The purification by column chromatography gives 43 mg of methyl 7-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)-2-isopropyl-5-methyl-1-methylsulfonylpyrrol-3-yl]-3-hydroxy-5-oxo-6-heptenate. ( $R_f = 0.31$ , ethyl acetate/hexane = 1/1).

5 To a solution of 67 mg (0.144 mmol) of the obtained compound in 1.2 ml of THF is added 0.3 ml of methanol, and 0.16 mmol of diethyl-methoxyborane in 160  $\mu$ l of THF at  $-78^\circ\text{C}$  under nitrogen atmosphere, then stirred for 20 minutes. Next, 6 mg (0.16 mmol) of sodium borohydride is added thereto and stirred for 1.5 hours, then 0.2 ml of acetic acid is added thereto. The reaction mixture is poured into an ice-cooled aqueous solution of sodium bicarbonate and extracted with ethyl acetate twice. The organic layer is washed  
10 with brine, dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate, and concentrated. To the resulting residue is added methanol, and concentrated again. This procedure is repeated three times, then the residue is purified by column chromatography to give 61 mg of a methyl ester (A) of the target compound with 91% yield ( $R_f = 0.27$ , ethyl acetate/methylene chloride = 1/3).

To a solution of 5.62 g (12.0 mmol) of the methyl ester compound (A) in 180 ml of ethanol is added  
15 dropwise 117 ml of 0.1N sodium hydroxide under ice-cooling, then stirred at room temperature for 1 hour. After removal of the solvent, 50 ml of ethanol is added, and is concentrated again. This procedure is repeated 3 times to give a residue, to which 100 ml of ether is added, then stirred at room temperature for 1 hour to give white crystals, which are collected by filtration, and washed with ether to give 5.47 g of the target compound with 96% yield.

20 Analysis (%) for  $\text{C}_{22}\text{H}_{27}\text{NO}_6\text{SFNa} \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ :

Calcd.: C, 51.66; H, 6.11; N, 2.74; S, 6.27; F, 3.71; Na, 4.49

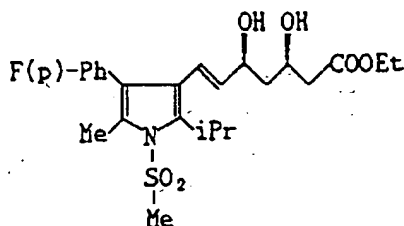
Found: C, 51.79; H, 6.17; N, 2.84; S, 6.12; F, 3.49; Na, 4.63

NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ )  $\delta$ : 1.33 (s, 3H); 1.37 (s, 3H); 2.15 (s, 3H); 2.24 (m, 2H); 3.36 (s, 3H); 3.72 (m, 2H); 4.21 (m, 1H); 4.98 (dd,  $J = 16, 7$  Hz, 1H); 6.62 (d,  $J = 16$ , 1H); 7.14 (m, 4H)

25  $[\alpha]_D = +28.3 \pm 0.7^\circ$  ( $C = 1.010$ ,  $25.5^\circ\text{C}$ , water)

[Determination of optical purity]

To a solution of 58 mg (0.124 mmol) of the methyl ester (A) in 0.6 ml of methanol, which is obtained in  
30 the above Reference Example, is added 62  $\mu$ l of 4N-NaOH at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , and stirred for 1 hour. After removal of the solvent, the residue is suspended in ethyl acetate and 0.15 ml of 2N-HCl is added thereto at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , stirred at the same temperature for 5 minutes and dried over anhydrous magnesium sulfate. To the obtained solution is added an excess of diazoethane in ether at  $0^\circ\text{C}$ , and stirred for 5 minutes. After concentration, purification by column chromatography gives 49 mg of the following ethylester compound  
35 with a 82% yield.



45  $R_f$ : 0.25 (ethyl acetate/hexane = 1/1)

High-performance liquid chromatography:

Column: Chiralcel (Daisel) OD 0.46 x 25 cm

50 Eluate: hexane/ethanol = 90/10

Flow rate: 0.5 ml/min.

Wavelength: 254 nm

Temperature:  $40^\circ\text{C}$

Optical purity: 98% e e

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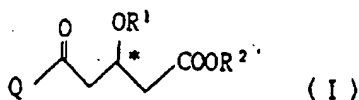


## Industrial Utility of The Invention

The present invention provides a synthetic method to produce optically active starting materials for various optically active medicaments, in more detail, HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, in high optical purity and good yield.

## Claims

1. A method for synthesizing a compound (I):



wherein

$\text{R}^1$  is hydrogen or a hydroxy protecting group;

$\text{R}^2$  is hydrogen or optionally substituted lower alkyl;

Q is  $-\text{CN}=\text{P}(\text{R}^3)_3$  or  $-\text{CHX}^*\text{X}$

wherein

$\text{R}^3$  is optionally substituted lower alkyl or optionally substituted aryl;

X is  $-\text{P}(\text{O})\text{R}^4\text{R}^5$  or  $-\text{S}(\text{O})\text{R}^4$

wherein

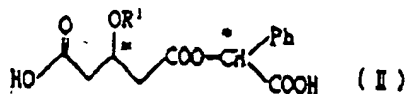
$\text{R}^4$  and  $\text{R}^5$ , each is hydrogen, an optionally substituted lower alkyl, optionally substituted lower alkoxy, optionally substituted aryl, or halogen;

$\text{X}^*$  is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

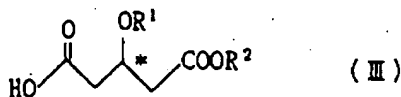
\* is an asymmetric carbon,

which comprises

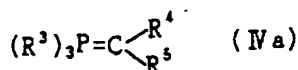
(a) subjecting glutarate (II):



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  and \* are respectively the same as defined above, to a transesterification to produce a half-ester (III):



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is the same as defined above;  $\text{R}^2$  is optionally substituted lower alkyl, then converting the free carboxylic acid to a reactive derivative, and reacting the derivative with a compound (IV a):



wherein  $\text{R}^3$ ,  $\text{R}^4$ , and  $\text{R}^5$  are respectively the same as defined above, and if necessary, followed by a hydrolysis reaction, or



(b) reacting the compound (II) with  $\text{CH}_2\text{X}'\text{X}$  (IV b);  
wherein X and X' are respectively the same as defined above, and  
if necessary, followed by esterification.

- 5    2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the compound (II) is in a configuration of (3R, 2'R).
3. The method according Claim 1, wherein the compound (II) is in a configuration of (3S, 2'S).
- 10    4. Methyl (3R)-3-(tert-butyldimethylsilyloxy)-5-oxo-6-triphenylphosphoranylidene hexanoate.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/JP92/00611

<b>I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all) *		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC		
Int. Cl. <sup>5</sup> C07F9/535, C07C315/00, C07C317/04, C07C317/14, C07C317/24, C07C317/44		
<b>II. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum Documentation Searched *		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
IPC	C07F9/535, C07C315/00, C07C317/04, C07C317/14, C07C317/24, C07C317/44	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the extent that such Documents are included in the Fields Searched *		
<b>III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT *</b>		
Category *	Citation of Document, <sup>11</sup> with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages <sup>12</sup>	Relevant to Claim No. <sup>13</sup>
A	JP, A, 2-250852 (Shionogi & Co., Ltd.), October 8, 1990 (08. 10. 90), & EP, A, 373931	1-4
A	JP, A, 2-243650 (Hoechst AG.), September 27, 1990 (27. 09. 90), & DE, A, 3832570 & EP, A, 361273 & US, A, 5091386	1-4
A	JP, A, 1-132547 (Pfizer Inc.); May 25, 1989 (25. 05. 89), & EP, A, 312269 & WO, A, 8903212	1-4
A	JP, A, 64-45337 (Hoechst AG.), February 17, 1989 (17. 02. 89), & DE, A, 3722807 & EP, A, 306649	1-4
A	JP, A, 49-18852 (G. D. Searle & Co.), February 19, 1974 (19. 02. 74), & DE, A, 2310556 & GB, A, 1421554 & GB, A, 1421555 & GB, A, 1421553	1-3
<p>* Special categories of cited documents: <sup>14</sup></p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"S" document member of the same patent family</p>		
<b>IV. CERTIFICATION</b>		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
August 6, 1992 (06. 08. 92)	August 25, 1992 (25. 08. 92)	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
Japanese Patent Office		